

Borough and Port
of Sandwich

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30070727>

**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee, Borough of Sandwich.**

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the annual report on the Health and General Sanitary Conditions of your Borough for the year 1947. The report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and reveals a satisfactory state of health in the Borough.

The birth rate of 27.2 per 1,000 of population is higher than that of the preceding year (24.2). The infant mortality rate of 31.5 per 1,000 live births is higher than that of the preceding year (12.1).

Except for a mild epidemic of measles (85 cases) there was for the third successive year a low incidence of Zymotic infection. As regards that killer of childhood—diphtheria—it is interesting to note that since the year 1940, when eight cases occurred in the Borough, not a single case has been notified in the subsequent seven years.

That such a satisfactory position has been attained in regard to this most dangerous disease of childhood must, I consider, be due to the fact that parents in their wisdom have availed themselves of the facilities for protecting their children against this lurking infection, which often results in serious after effects.

It is most gratifying to be able to put on record that at the end of the year 70.50% of the child population of the Borough have been protected for this infection. It is considered that for the youthful section of the community to be protected from an outbreak of this preventable infection it is essential that 70% should be immune.

That immunisation plays a very definite rôle in protecting the population is shown in the Registrar-General's returns. Prior to the immunisation campaign which was launched in 1940, the average number of deaths throughout the country resulting from this disease was 2,641; in 1946 this number had fallen to 472. The number of original notifications in 1946 was the lowest ever recorded in the County—180; in the year 1938 the number was 1,361.

With a percentage of 64.3 of children under the age of five years who had been immunised, Sandwich occupied fourth place in the 32 Sanitary Districts in the County Welfare Area at the end of the year 1946 .The percentage at the end of the current year was 82.24.

With my report is incorporated the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Douglas, on the Sanitary circumstances of the Area. As usual it shows the efficient manner in which he carries out his duties in spite of the heavy demand made upon his time as Borough Surveyor, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the unfailing help and co-operation I have received from him in the performance of my duty.

T. J. NICHOLL,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1948.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Sandwich is a market town surrounded by an agricultural area, and adjacent to important Colliery developments. It is enclosed by the Eastry Rural District as now constituted. The major portion of the area is low lying, but in the Southern portion the land is slightly more elevated. The whole of the northern part is low-lying marsh land on which is situated the so-called Port of Richborough, which came into existence in the war 1914-18.

Area (including inland water), 2,137 acres.

Population (census 1931), 3,687, estimated 194⁷~~6~~, 3,491.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947), 1,231.

Density of population, persons per acre, 1.63.

Rateable value, £28,602.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £107.1s. 3.01d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births.

(1) Live Births:

			M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	46	44	90
Illegitimate	...	...	1	4	5
			47	48	95

Birth Rate (per 1,000), 27.2.

England and Wales, 1947, 20.5.

(2) Still Births 2 0 2

Rate per 1,000 total Births, 20.6.

Deaths.

			M.	F.	Total.
Net total deaths in 1947	...	...	24	17	41

Death Rate (per 1,000 population), 11.7.

England and Wales, 1947, 12.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes, nil.

Infant Mortality.

Deaths under one year of age:

			M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	2	0	2
Illegitimate	...	...	0	1	0
			2	1	3

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births), 31.5.

England and Wales, 41 per 1,000.

Causes of Deaths:

Asphyxia (infanticide)	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital-Malformation	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	1

Other Deaths:

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
All Causes	24	17
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	—
Measles	1	—
Pneumonia	1	3
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Œsophagus	1	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—
Cancer of all other Sites	3	3
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	1	1
Heart Disease	6	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Diabetes	—	—
Nephritis	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—
Other violent causes	1	2
All other causes	5	—

Of the total deaths Heart Disease accounted for 26.8%,
Cancer 19.5%, and Cerebral Hæmorrhage 4.87%.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: T. J. Nicholl, F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspection: T. Douglas,
F.S.I.A., F.Inst.P.C., A.M.Inst.M.E.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: Miss Kathleen
Lawrence.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals:

- (a) General: There is no general hospital in the Borough. Cases requiring treatment are largely dealt with at the Ramsgate General Hospital, the Kent and Canterbury Hospital situated at Canterbury, and the Victoria Hospital, Deal. These hospitals have efficient X-ray apparatus.
- (b) Infectious: Cases of infectious disease were sent to the Eastry Isolation Hospital, which was re-opened in 1940. The Eastry Rural District Council having decided to close their hospital at the end of 1946, an agreement was entered into with the Thanet Joint Hospital Board whereby cases of infectious illness occurring in the Borough will be admitted to the Board's Isolation Hospital at Haine, which re-opened on January 1st, 1947.

Ambulance Facilities:

- (1) For infectious cases: Cases are removed by the Haine Isolation Hospital Ambulance.
- (2) For non-infectious cases and accidents: The Borough possesses an efficient motor ambulance.

Maternity and Nursing Homes:

There are none in the Borough.

Professional Nursing in the Home:

No special arrangements have been made for this by the Authority. Health Visitors employed by the County and Nurses of the Kent County Nursing Association visit in the Borough.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Centre at the Masonic Hall is administered by the County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease:

Arrangements are in the hands of the County Authorities.

Laboratory Facilities:

Clinical material is submitted to the County Laboratory, as are samples of milk, water, sewage, etc.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

The water supply for the Borough is derived from the Corporation's Waterworks, situated at Woodnesborough, in the Eastry Rural District. From a deep well some 187,000 gallons of water is pumped every 24 hours, and is chemically treated prior to delivery.

(a) **Chemical Analyses:**

Description of sample of water taken from reservoir

	Parts per 100.000			
Total solid residue	...	...	...	43.5
Chlorine	...	...	...	3.4
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.3
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ -hour at 80°F.	...	...	...	0.014
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	...	0.028
Nitrates	...	...	...	Absent

Remarks: The water was of very good organic quality.

(Signed) F. W. ARNAUD,
Public Analyst for the County of Kent.

(b) **Bacteriological Examination:**

During the year samples of drinking water were sent to the County Laboratory each month for bacteriological examination.

The following table shows the results of these examinations:—

Date.	Description of Sample.	Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar.		B. Coli. (presumptive) in 100 c.c.
		37°C.	22°C.	
30- 1-47	Water from the Guildhall	0	0	Absent
26- 2-47	" " " Reservoir	2	2	"
3- 4-47	" " " Bishop's Yard	0	10	"
20- 5-47	" " " Guildhall	0	0	"
3- 6-47	" " " Reservoir	0	4	"
3- 7-47	" " " Bishop's Yard	0	0	"
6- 8-47	" " " Reservoir	0	0	"
4- 9-47	" " " Guildhall	0	0	"
2-10-47	" " " Reservoir	2	10	"
30-10-47	" " " Guildhall	5	5	"
4-12-47	" " " Bishop's Yard	0	1	"

Good Water.

(Signed) E. R. JONES,
County Hall,
Maidstone.

Drainage and Sewerage:

Main drainage is provided for practically the whole of the Borough. The sewage is discharged into the River Stour at two outlets without previous treatment.

Number of premises connected to main drain, 1,201.

Number of premises connected to cesspools, 20.

Public Cleansing:

The collection and disposal of domestic refuse is carried out officially by the Corporation. House refuse collections are made weekly, a Scammel motor vehicle fitted with canvas covers, to render the process of loading as dustless as possible, being used for this purpose. A trailer is attached to the vehicle for the conveyance of waste paper, rags and bones. The refuse is disposed of at the Controlled Tip situated in Richborough Road, where it is compacted and the banks of the tip covered with grass sods previously removed prior to tipping. This method of disposal has proved quite satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

The following are the particulars supplied to the Medical Officer of Health by the Sanitary Inspector with regard to the sanitary inspection of the area:—

No. of Inspections made during the year, 396.

No. of Notices served, statutory nil, informed 18.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Nature.	Inspections.
Dwelling Houses	72
Bakehouses (5)	24
Food preparing places (4)	44
Factories and Workshops (25)	52
Dairies (3)	10
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	1
Miscellaneous	173

DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Defective Sanitary Accommodation	42
Defective Drainage	61
Refuse Receptacles	61
Structural Repairs, Roofs, Walls, Floors, etc.	52
Defective Sanitary Fittings	18
Windows and Ventilation	12
Water Supply	18
Miscellaneous	51

Shops Act, 1934:

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 67 visits in connection with the general administration of the Shops Acts. No formal action was found necessary.

Factories Act, 1937:

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections	Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9 ...	36 ...	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	... 16 ...	16 ...	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority		— ...	—
Total	 25	... 52	—

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	No of cases in which defects were found.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	2	2	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—

Rodent Control:

A part-time Rodent Officer is employed to carry out the work of rats and mice infestation.

During the year 22 complaints of minor infestations were received and satisfactorily dealt with.

Estimated number of rodents killed after prebaiting and poisoning, 558.

Examination of the sewers failed to show any signs of infestation, but arrangements were being made for a special test.

Verminous Premises:

Four complaints were received during the year and satisfactorily dealt with.

Re-inspections are made after disinfestation has been completed to ensure that proper precautions are taken to prevent re-infestation.

Salvage:

During the year the collection of waste paper and cardboard was continued, and after sorting was baled and sent to the Paper Mills.

The quantity of paper and cardboard collected was 34 tons, 16 cwt. Kitchen waste collected in the communal bins realised 6 tons.

SECTION D.**HOUSING.**

During the year a considerable number of war-damaged houses were repaired and made habitable.

Number of inspections made during the year, 72.

Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation, 41.

Number of houses rendered fit for habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority, 41.

Local Authority:

The scheme for the development of the Sandwood Housing Estate for 200 houses, which was adopted in January, 1945, when the lay-out submitted was approved by the Ministry of Health.

During 1947 progress was made on this Estate by the completion of a new concrete road known as Sandwood Road, and at the end of the year 16 of the 20 new houses were occupied.

These houses were of the semi-detached 3 Bedroom type.

In December, 1946, a contract was commenced on a new concrete road which was formally known as Black Lane, and by resolution of the Council was changed into St. Bart's Road.

This new road, which was almost completed at the end of 1947, provides a link between Woodnesborough Road and Dover Road which fulfils a long needed by-pass of the town.

This road provides frontages for 59 houses, and tenders had been invited for the erection of the first 8 houses on this road at the end of the year.

Private Enterprise:

A Private Contractor who received permission to erect 20 houses on the Poulders Gardens Estate had completed 16 houses at the end of the year, and the remaining four houses were well in hand.

The Housing position is still very acute despite the 42 houses erected and occupied at the end of 1947.

This district, in common with many others, is experiencing a great housing shortage which has produced a long waiting list of applicants for houses.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 78 inspections of the Bakehouses, Dairies, and other food preparing places in the Borough. No defects were found.

Meat:

At the commencement of the war all slaughtering in the Borough ceased, and this work is now carried out at Canterbury under the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughtering Scheme.

Condemned Food:

During the past year the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

Beef, 697lbs.; Sausage, 44lbs.; Poultry, 20lbs.; Eggs, 3 doz.; Canned Foods, 953lbs.; total, 15cwt. 1qr. 18lbs.

Ice Cream:

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale or manufacture for sale of ice cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

Number of premises registered, 5.

Milk:

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made ten visits to the various dairies and cow-sheds in the Borough.

Number of registered premises, 1.

Number of registered retailers, 4.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Supply of Serum:

Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council free of charge, and supplied to doctors for the use of their patients in the Borough. A supply of this serum is stocked at the Health Office.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

A scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria was adopted and came into force in the latter part of 1940. Up to the end of 1947 the results were as follows:—

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED.

Under 5 years.	From 5 to 15 years.	Total.
264	336	600
82.24%	64.15%	70.50%

Disinfection:

This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Council does not possess a steam disinfecter. Infected articles of clothing and bedding are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Haine for treatment. Number of premises disinfected, 3.

Verminous Persons.

There are no facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons in the Borough, but there are facilities for the disinfection of clothing at the Haine Isolation Hospital.

Infectious Diseases:

Scarlet Fever: One case was notified during the year.

Erysipelas: Two cases were notified.

Diphtheria: No cases occurred during the year.

Measles: Eighty-five cases were notified.

Pneumonia: Seven cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during the year 1947:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmo- nary		Non-Pul- monary		Pulmo- nary		Non-Pul- monary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65&over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

Cases of Tuberculosis Remaining on Register, December 31st, 1947.			
Male		Female	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
14	6	4	1

Whooping Cough.—Eighteen cases were notified during the year.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Age Period													Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65			
Scarlet Fever						1								1	1	—
Pneumonia						1			2		3		1	7	—	4
Measles	4	8	7	18	5	4	1	—	1	1				85	2	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	5		8								18	—	—
Erysipelas									1				1	2	—	—

PORT AND HAVEN OF SANDWICH.

This year saw the handing back of the administration of the Port and Haven by the Admiralty to the Conservators. As the result of war activities, it was found necessary to reconstruct certain sections of the Port so as to restore the facilities for dealing with shipping making use of the Port. This necessary work was commenced towards the end of the year.

